

REMARKS

With the cancellation of claims 19, 20, and 27 and addition of claims 28-37, claims 14-18, 21, 24-26, and 28-37 are now pending in the present application. With respect to claims 14-18, 21, and 24-26, since the amendment to claim 14 incorporates in this claim subject matter that the Examiner deemed allowable, allowance of these claims is respectfully submitted.

As for claims 28-37, these claims are allowable over the Lambert reference for at least the following reasons. From this publication, a fuel injector is already known in which an actuator is able to cooperate with a valve needle. In the process, a first valve-closure member arranged on valve needle cooperates with a first valve seat surface on a valve seat member to form a first sealing seat. Furthermore, a second valve closure member is provided inside valve needle, which cooperates with a second valve seat surface on valve seat member to form a second sealing seat. Valve needle or the first valve closure member has a limit stop against which a counter limit stop of second valve closure member strikes following a partial stroke of valve needle and lifts second valve closure member up from the second sealing seat in a further lift of valve needle. Valve seat member has a first circumferential hole circle having a plurality of spray discharge bore holes, which are arranged in valve seat member in such a way that the first sealing seat seals the first hole circle from a fuel supply from a supply chamber externally surrounding valve needle. In the partial-stroke phase of valve needle, i.e., when first sealing seat is open and second sealing seat is still closed, the fuel – coming from the same inflow chamber – is available at the second sealing seat. This known design of valve needle allows exclusively that the first outer hole circle having spray-discharge bore holes will be released by the first lifting of valve needle, while the second inner hole circle having spray-discharge bore holes, which is initially closed by second sealing seat, is in principle opened subsequently.

In contrast, the subject matter claimed by the new Claim 28 includes the feature that second valve closure member surrounds valve needle or first valve closure member. Our application subject matter according to Claim 28 is distinguished in that a first inner hole circle having spray-discharge bore holes will be released upon valve needle lifting off from first valve seat surface. The second valve closure member surrounds the valve needle or first valve closure member externally and is guided by the first valve closure member. In the partial-stroke phase of valve needle, i.e., when first sealing seat is opened, the second sealing seat and thus a second outer hole circle, will be kept closed by the second valve closure member resting against the valve seat body. As a result, no fuel is able to flow

in the direction of the first hole circle from an outer surrounding chamber or from an inflow chamber known from Lambert.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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